



Appleby Grammar School – Newsletter

May 2026

It is already half-term as the summer term continues to fly past. As the whole school continues on with their well-established routines, our Year 11s and Year 13s are well into their exam season and have approached the whole situation with calmness and maturity. I have been most impressed by how organised and determined they have been throughout. The forthcoming holiday is an opportunity to mix some relaxation and rest with more revision. Time invested now will reap the dividends.

New Build update

Work on site continues on schedule with the foundations for the new superblock well underway on the old yard. Plenty of work has taken place underground with the laying of supply cables which will link to the new installed substation on the bus and car park at the front of school.

Morgan Sindall who are building the new school are mainly working behind hoardings now and some of our talented artists have made the most of the literal blank canvas they have been given to work on. The fencing that separates the school from the building site has had a section transformed by Year 9 artists. As Mrs Truch describes:

'We were blessed with bright sunshine when two extremely talented graffiti artists joined us, from London, to work on a mural highlighting environmental issues. Dave and Lily's enthusiasm motivated students to design their own section and in only four hours created an impressive message. This workshop was part of a larger venture linked with Eden Valley Artistic Network which saw Dave and Lily involved in projects across Penrith, such as revamping Penrith Skatepark.'



You can keep up to date with the new build progress on our website:

[Appleby Grammar School - AGS Rebuilding and Refurbishment](https://www.appleby.cumbria.sch.uk/rebuilding-and-refurbishment)

Continuing our work on the environment, members of the Eco Council have attended two workshops in school, first with Geoff from Cumbria Development Education Centre and then with Elli from Another Way. Students discussed Climate issues and ways that they can promote discussion and discover a positive way to move forward ensuring that our youth have a voice. The Eco Council are now working on a piece of artwork that will be taken to the Youth Climate Summit on 2 July. The piece will focus on our new school building and ways that we can adapt to cope with our changing environment. On another note, well done to our litter pickers and those taking part in our gardening club - our herbs for the upcoming Creative Show are growing well.

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Flagpole!

We are proudly an Eco Schools Green Flag school having gained that award through the work of our fantastic Eco Council. We are now looking to source a flagpole to fly our flag from! If anyone of our parent body or the wider community can help us with this, then please contact the school at admin@appleby.cumbria.sch.uk

Thanks!

There are plenty of forthcoming events at school to advertise. You can see them in the calendar at the bottom of this newsletter. To highlight a few there are also posters attached and a brief overview here:

Creative Show and Summer Bistro

A huge well done to all our talented artists, both in Year 11 and Year 13, who have finished their final exhibitions showcasing all the incredible artwork they have created in the last two years. Please join them in celebrating their hard-work at our Creative Show on Thursday 2 July starting at 5.30pm. Immediately following that art exhibition is our Summer Bistro, which you are all welcome to stay for. Mrs Benson and her team of student chefs will be cooking canapes and a full 3 course meal. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to share all that they have learnt and has been a huge success over the last few years. Please contact student reception to book your tickets, as it is sure to be jam-packed!



Musical – Annie Jr

Rehearsals are continuing apace for our summer musical – Annie Junior. Staff, students and our support team, including governors have been working hard to refine the performance ready for the shows in early July. Tickets can be bought via reception and it would be wonderful to see full houses to watch the shows, as we put on our first musical for several years. I am looking forward to seeing you there!

[Appleby Grammar School - Annie Jr](#)

Transition Day and Evening

Our Transition Day for our new Year 7 starters in September takes place on Thursday 2 July. We are really looking forward to welcoming all our new students into school on the day. The following Tuesday 7 July there is a Transition Evening for students and their parents or carers. This is a great chance to come into school and find out a little more about September and get to know key staff.

Stop Press...Community Open Evening

On Thursday 16 July we will be throwing open the school doors and welcoming in the local community to see the progress of the building work and browse the school archives. There will be food and drink available on the night too. Watch this space for ticket news!

School Rebuild and Refurbishment 'Buy a Block'.

We are unashamedly using evenings such as this to raise money to compliment the funds that the Department of Education are investing into the school.

As you may know, the DfE pay for the building, but not what is inside it. Loose items such as furniture and computers are not part of the build costs. We have decided that as far as we can, all items will be new when the school opens its doors to students for the first time in September 2027.

If anyone and/or their business is interested in purchasing a figurative 'block(s)', the new school will have a permanent sign that displays the name of anyone who has donated. Purchasing blocks is an excellent way for schools etc to raise funds and leaves a lasting reminder. We have put together the following options:

Individual block sponsor	: £10 each
Bronze sponsor	: £100
Silver sponsor	: £250
Gold sponsor	: £500
Platinum sponsor	: £1000

To give you an idea of our costs, a classroom chair is in the region of £25 and a table, £100.

Should you wish to make a donation, please do not hesitate to speak a member of staff either this evening or by contacting the school at any stage.

English and Maths Award Winners!

Congratulations to Tommy G (Year 8) who was recently awarded a distinction and prize at District level of the Rotary Young Writer competition for his creative piece: The Battle of Eden Grove. Well done, Tommy!



In the Leeds UKMT maths challenge there were bronze and silver awards with Georgia P (Year 8) scoring the highest in the whole school and Iyana C (Year 7) scoring highest in Year 7. Well done everyone!

Sophie's Music Success Continues...

In our last newsletter we celebrated Sophie L-B's (Year 7) musical success in a local competition. I am delighted to continue that success story with news that following a successful audition she has been offered a place in the JRNCM (Junior Royal College of Music)! This is a Saturday music college which starts in September. This is an incredible achievement and we are all very proud of her. Well done, Sophie!



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Our Gold and Silver practice expedition were out and about last weekend in the Yorkshire Three peaks. Well done to all our students and to the staff who gave up their time to allow the expedition to happen.



Careers

Please see the attachments for more information on Year 7 and Year 8 careers and an appeal to all parents and their contacts to support our work experience programme.

French Visit

In April, students from Years 8 to 10 visited Chateau de Chanteraine, in Criel Plage, France. Please see the students reports attached to the bottom of this newsletter.

Sport

Congratulations to Luke L (Year 10) on his selection to play cricket for Cumbria U15s. Luke has played and kept wicket for his county, which is a great achievement. There is plenty of cricket to be played, so we'll keep you posted on his progress.



Well done to the Year 7-10 girls who travelled to KSGS to play a postponed football game last month. It was great to have girls out representing the school in football and specially to have those making their school debut. They all showed great



maturity in managing their own subs and positions with support from Mrs Bond and Mr Modlin. It was a lovely friendly atmosphere with all girls working hard finishing with a win for the U13s and a narrow loss for the U15s.



Well done too, to Year 7 and 8 girls who welcomed UCC to play rounders after school recently. Sadly the weather was against us and the rain poured, but the girls carried on regardless showing great resilience. A first match for Year 7, showed some promising performances as they got to grips with the rules. Year 8 grew in confidence, learning their tactics and sealed a win. Mrs Bond was proud of them all, as we all are.

Joss H in Year 7 is really making a name for himself in the Karting world! He made an unforgettable start to his Champions of the Future Academy UK campaign, competing in the first major event held at the brand new Kart Silverstone circuit. Joss has shown incredible skill and determination in his Karting career, which looks set to continue to flourish. We are all really proud of his achievements. You can see more of his progress at: <https://josshuschkaracing.co.uk/race-reports>



I always hope that this regular half-termly newsletter, our routine communication and our ever-developing website gives you as parents or carers, the information you need about the school. We are always looking to improve and of course that include the views of parents. Many of you have completed the Parent View survey in the past few weeks and that remains open for parents to do so, to help us continue to reflect and improve. [Welcome to Ofsted Parent View | Ofsted Parent View](#)

You can also email the school on admin@appleby.cumbria.sch.uk if there is something you'd like to raise or share with us, like your child's success outside of school. Remember, in most cases academic issues are handled by curriculum leaders and more general pastoral issues by a Head of Year. Mr. Noble is our SENDCo and Mr Moore, our Designated Safeguarding Lead. Our full staffing list and leadership team is on our website too.

[Appleby Grammar School - Leadership Structure](#)

We will be into the Fair Week when we return and our usual plans are in place with the relevant authorities to allow the school to operate as close to normal as possible. We are doing all we can to make it as smooth as possible over those few days. I would thank parents for their understanding and patience at that pinch point in the calendar, which this year is compounded by our building work. Please bear with us! I'd also like to thank you for your support during our Ofsted inspection last week. As I wrote to you all on Friday, it is now a waiting game for us all, as we await the report from Ofsted HQ. As soon as I can share that with you; I will do so.

The forecast is set fair for the Bank Holiday weekend, so I'd like to wish all our students and families a nice holiday. Please be safe, especially near water - [Royal Life Saving Society UK's Drowning Prevention Week](#).

Thank you for all your continued support of our great school and look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon.



Mr P J Nicholson
Headteacher
Appleby Grammar School

Upcoming events @ AGS

10 June – Queens Tennis Visit
16 June – KS3 SmartSTEM Visit
17 June – Year 12 STEM Lancaster University Visit
17 June – Year 7 Beamish Visit
19 June – Year 5 STEM day
22 June – 3 July – Year 10 and 12 mocks
26 June – Year 12 Newcastle/Northumbria University Visit
2 July – Transition day
2 July – Creative Show
6 – 10 July – Year 7 Fundraising week
7 July – Transition evening (Parents/carers and students)
9 – 10 July – Annie Jr
9 July – Sports Day
15 July – Yorkshire Show Visit
16 July – community open evening
17 July – End of term 2PM

Year 7 & 8! It is never too early to start thinking about your future career.

Even though you are only in Year 7 or 8, it's never too early to begin thinking about your future. The choices you make now—especially around your interests, hobbies and subjects—can help shape the opportunities available to you later.

Why should you think about your future now?

At your stage, you are not expected to have all the answers. However, starting to explore different careers can help you:

- Discover what you enjoy and what you are good at
- Understand how school subjects link to real jobs
- Feel more confident about your future choices

Simple things like trying new activities, asking questions, and working hard in lessons all help build important skills for later life.

What options are available after school?

As you move through school, you will begin to learn more about different pathways you can take after Year 11. These include:

1. Further Education Colleges

Colleges offer a wide range of courses that help you continue learning and prepare for a job or university.

- **Kendal College** offers courses for school leavers, including A-levels, vocational courses and apprenticeships, helping students gain the skills needed for employment or further study.
 [Kendal College](#)
- **Carlisle College** provides a variety of courses and strong links with employers, supporting students to build career plans and progress into jobs or further education.
 [Carlisle College](#)

2. Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a great option if you prefer learning by doing. You earn money while working and gain a recognised qualification at the same time. Apprenticeships combine practical experience with study and can lead to a wide range of careers.

You can explore opportunities here:

 [Find an Apprenticeship](#)

What can you do now?

Even at your age, there are simple steps you can take to start preparing for the future:

- Work hard and develop good study habits
 - Get involved in clubs, sports or creative activities
 - Be curious—ask adults about their jobs
 - Build skills like teamwork, communication and problem-solving
-

Final thought

Your future is full of possibilities, and there is no single “right” path. The important thing is to stay open-minded, keep learning, and believe in yourself. Every experience you have now is helping to build the skills and confidence you will need in the future.

Remember: it is never too early to start thinking about your future career.

Year 10 Work Experience 2027

Is your child currently in Year 9 at Appleby Grammar School? This information is for you!

Your son/daughter will be taking part in the work experience programme run through their PSHE lessons. Work experience will run for 1 week at the start of March 2027 and all students are expected to take part.

Deadlines to be aware of include, application letter and CV (completed at school) must be printed and sent to potential placements no later than October half term 2026.

Placement confirmation deadline is mid November 2026 date TBC. The reason that this is early is to take into account the fact that placements can fall through and back up plans need to be set in place. We also employ an outside agency that carries out all required health and safety checks on each placement to approve the placement for your son/daughter. You will appreciate that this is time consuming and we need to allow for this in our plans.

We ask that students do not attend placements with immediate family as we have seen the benefits are far greater when experiencing a placement without immediate family members, students tend to get a much fairer and balanced experience.

PSHE lessons will focus on the preparation of work experience and will enable students to write CV's and application letters with the support of teaching staff. We would appreciate help with proof reading these documents and making sure they are delivered in good time to potential placements.

Students will have access to the South Lakes Work experience database which is full of work placements that have already been tried and tested by previous students. I will pass on details of their log in details as soon as we receive them in September. This database will include a vast bank of possible placements, however they are only based in Cumbria so if you wish for your child to gain a placement further afield then they will need your help with this. Placements must have employer liability insurance.

I also need to remind you that it is not the school's responsibility to arrange your child's transport to and from their placement, this is your responsibility so may need to be a consideration when sourcing potential placements.

I hope that we can work together on this to guarantee a successful work experience week in which our young people gain a valuable insight in to the world of work.

If you have any questions please do hesitate to get in touch on kmodlin@appleby.cumbria.sch.uk

Mrs K Modlin

AGS Careers Lead

Can you offer a work placement? If so, please do get in touch and we will let the students know of any opportunity offered.

In April, students from Years 8 to 10 visited Chateau de Chanteraine, in Criel Plage, France. A wonderful time was had by all – below are some student reports of their experience.



'Le Château de Chanteraine' by students from 8KXT

I loved Normandy! I really enjoyed immersing myself in the culture after spending lots of time practising the language. I enjoyed the animateurs speaking in French as it really encouraged conversations to not be just in English.

I loved it all, but if I had to choose some particular moments, I really enjoyed the day trips - to Le Tréport, Rouen and Dieppe as they encouraged conversations with locals. Seeing all the culture in the cities really amazed me - things such as a few of the many cathedrals France has to offer and the funicular railway which had amazing views across the sea. Tasting French cuisine was very enjoyable as well; enjoying snails for the first time was an amazing opportunity. I also loved the social side; spending time with people I wouldn't usually talk to. Everything was such good fun I wouldn't know how to improve it! Being immersed in the French culture was a memorable experience we will never forget! I would encourage anyone interested who gets the chance to go!

- **Amelia D**

The French trip was really fun. We had lots of activities to enjoy throughout the day. The animateurs were extremely welcoming, and everyone loved them. My favourite day was Wednesday when we went to the 3rd largest cathedral in France (it was massive). After we went to the cathedral the teachers allowed us to go shopping for an hour with many shops to go to. The best part of that day was being able to go to a massive pop-up dessert shop with the most delicious crêpes I've ever had. Plus, the weather couldn't have been any better – on the Thursday it was roughly 26 degrees with some people taking that time to bring back a good suntan! My favourite part of the trip was when we went to the beach - it was so pretty and was really fun- on that day we also went to the funicular which took us through the cliffs giving us a really nice view of France. I also enjoyed when we went shopping, everyone got to roam around the shops and get what we wanted. The château was quite nice as well, the outside scenery was very pretty and the rooms were nice. On this France trip we have made lots of great memories that we will never forget.

- **Ruby-Mae H + Grace T**

My favourite part of the trip was when we walked around different parts of France, for example Rouen, Le Tréport and Dieppe, and when we went up the cliffs on the funicular. All of the animateurs were very friendly and helped you learn different French words. Another great part was when we went inside the castle and saw all of the different cathedrals. The ferry was really fun with all your friends there and the views of France from the boat. The food was very different but great and there

was an opportunity for everyone to eat a snail. The rooms were amazing and had lots of space for your things. The weather was brilliant and sunny on most days. This meant we could walk to the beach which was only fifteen minutes from the château. We had lots of free time in between activities and food and there was a large area of grass we could do sports and hang out on. The French trip was an amazing experience for us, and we had an amazing time.

- Georgia P

The French trip was an amazing opportunity, and we got to do lots of different things such as visiting cathedrals and towns such as Rouen and Dieppe. I also loved being on the bus. We had a fun time there with all our friends. We got to explore the ferry which was super fun and exciting. The rooms were spacious and had a good view of the French grounds. The food was delicious and we got different things every day and the bread was amazing. It was super sunny on some days which was a bonus. We had lots of opportunities to try new things such as snails (which tasted better than they looked).

Overall, I had an amazing trip, made new friends and tried new things!

- Jessica D

I really enjoyed Normandy and seeing a different culture. The château was great accommodation, and the rooms were reasonably comfortable. The food was good and the snails were Okay. The trip was totally worth it and I would go again. It was really good to help develop my understanding of the language. The activities were great and so were the animateurs. Big thanks to the teachers for making the opportunity possible as well as Max, Louise and of course **Jérémy. Jérémy est top**

- Reuben J



Personally, I really enjoyed the French trip. It was quite an experience going for my first time in France; I'm so glad I went to France. The activities were really fun! I loved the train through the cliffs and also the market mission! The city of Rouen was awesome! There were some awesome facts and historical monuments - the museum was also cool. I also liked the dairy farm, but my favourite was either the games on the beach or the

talent show! The meals were ok. Not to forget Monsieur Perdu 'Eape. The beds were reasonably comfy and had duvets instead of sleeping bags. I liked the people who were in my room: they were all nice. Our room had a lovely view of the morning sun and the chateau.



- Molly M

I really enjoyed Normandy! It was the best school trip I have ever been on, and the staff were really cool. We did a lot of activities like games on the beach, the market mission, the disco, games and much more. One of my favourite parts, not including the activities, was eating the snails, which is

something I've wanted to do for a long time. The weather couldn't have been any better. Overall Normandy was really good, and it was cool to see French culture and meet the staff.

- Ted K

